

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

PANAMA BUREAU

DRAWER 927

APO MIAMI 34004

8 July 1981
MPA #1027

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- June 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The bureau's growing production from coverage of developments in Nicaragua was boosted beginning on 13 June as Managua Radio Sandino began broadcasting live coverage every Saturday and Sunday of the "Forum on Discussion of National Problems," in which members of progovernment and opposition parties are working to reach agreement on various issues. By the end of the month, the forum, which may go on for several months, had involved 30 hours of additional weekend coverage requiring extra staffing, and some 85,000 words had been filed.

B. Communications

1. The bureau suffered its first major communications outage in some 2 years on the morning of 24 June, when both Mode V and Mode II Autodin were lost at the Panama Autodin Relay due to possible carrier problems which were never identified. Simultaneously, the bureau lost Telex communications due to computer problems in Panama City, and was unable to call FBIS Washington by phone. Telephone communications with Key West were finally established, and bureau coverage was backstopped until restoration of communications nearly 24 hours later.

2. The bureau began sending traffic using the MIDAS format, and encountered only minor problems in the change. Monitors are capitalizing, providing distribution codes, and providing copy to the editors in the correct MIDAS format.

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The necessary approvals were received to increase the bureau's Category I MODE ceiling from four to five. The additional position will be used to staff another editor.

2. [] and family arrived PCS on 22 June. He STAT assumed the duties of deputy chief on 25 June.

3. Deputy Chief [] departed 26 June on PCS. His STAT next assignment will be in Headquarters.

4. A special ceremony was held 5 June to inform Chief Monitor [] of his promotion to NM-12. STAT

5. [] was selected from among various apSTAT plicants to fill the bureau's vacant monitorial position. Pre-employment processing is under way.

B. Building and Grounds

Rust preventive work was completed with the painting of the Operations Building rainshelter structure. Work was also completed on the cleaning and painting of antennas 30-1 and 29-2.

III. VISITS

1. AG analyst [] on TDY from 1 through 5 June. STAT

2. [] electronics section, Communications Branch, STAT Engineering and Construction Bureau, Panama Canal Commission, on 30 June.

[] STAT
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report
Operations Attachment
Engineering Attachment

cc: Chief, Paraguay Bureau
Chief, Key West Bureau